**Gandhidham-Mundra NH-8A (Exttr.)**

1907. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule prepared by NHAI for the starting and completion of work of land acquisition for four-laning of Gandhidham-Mundra section ofNH-8A(Extn.);and

(b) whether there is any plan to develop this section on Public Private Partnership format?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Kandla-Gandhidham-Mundra Port section covering a length of 73 km has been identified under National Highway Development Project (NHDP), Phase-IIIA on BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis which includes Gandhidham-Mundra section of NH-8A (Extn.) NHDP Phase-IIIA is on Public Private Partnership format. Bids for consultancy services for preparation of feasibility-cum-preliminary design of this stretch have been received by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) from the consultants. It is too early to give time schedule for land acquisition at this stage.

**Scheme to provide financial assistance to minor ports**

1908. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide financial assistance to take up projects of minor ports of the States by the Union Government.

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take up the project under Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is a Scheme for Assistance fo Maritime States/Union Territories for Development of Minor ports. The assistance is given to the Maritime States/UTs for the purpose of making feasibility reports, environment impact assessment studies, hydrographic and other technical surveys, preparation of bid documents etc. The scheme does not cover